## Amend claim 5 to read as follows:

(Once Amended) The method of reducing message traffic as in claim 4 further comprising sending a list of unnecessary messages and storing the list in said table of the automatic call distributor.

## REMARKS

- 1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the discussion that follows. Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 2-10 have been objected to for certain informalities. Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,335,268 to Kelly, Jr. et al. After a careful review of the claims, it has been concluded that the rejections are in error and are, therefore, traversed.
- 2. Claims 2-10 have been objected to for certain informalities. In response, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify the antecedent linkages.
- 3. Claims 1-25 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kelly, Jr. et al. In particular, the Examiner asserts that

"Kelly discloses a method of forwarding messages among peripherals of an automatic call distributor (column 3, lines 3-9) [The call messages between the switches and an ACD], such method comprising the steps of: forming a message table in a first peripheral of the automatic call distributor (column 4, lines 6-21) [The data base collects the switches data]; and forwarding a message from the first peripheral to a second peripheral of the automatic call distributor based upon a content of the message table (column 5, lines 57-60 and column 6, lines 11-16) [The data analysis produces an optimized routing plan for ACD]."

It is noted first that Kelly, Jr. et al. is drawn to routing calls, not messages (Kelly, Jr. et al.: col. 1, lines 5-10; col. 2, lines 13-26; col. 3, lines 3-9). As would be abundantly clear to

elements, it fails to teach each and every claim element as required by MPEP §2143.03. Since Kelly, Jr. et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every claim element, the rejection is believed to be improper and should be withdrawn.

4. Allowance of claims 1-25, as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, she is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

Jon P. Christensen

Registration No. 34,137

September 3, 2002 WELSH & KATZ, LTD. 120 South Riverside Plaza 22nd Floor Chicago, Illinois 60606 (312) 655-1500

جي بدايم سي ۲۶ ز ۲۰۰۰ جات

and the second second

## Marked-Up Claims

1. A method of [forwarding] <u>reducing</u> message[s] <u>traffic</u> among peripherals of an automatic call distributor, such method comprising the steps of:

forming a message table in a first peripheral of the automatic call distributor; and

forwarding a message from the first peripheral to a second peripheral of the automatic call distributor based upon a content of the message table.

5. The method of reducing message traffic as in claim 4 [wherein the step of] further comprising sending [the] a list of unnecessary messages [further comprises] and storing the list in said table of the automatic call distributor.